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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 24th August 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

South Indian handloom sarongs

* 254 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent restriction imposed by the Ceylon Government on the import of South Indian handloom sarongs into Ceylon; and

(*b*) if so, the action, if any, taken or proposed to be taken this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government of India were requested to move the Ceylon Government to relax the conditions imposed by them on the import of Indian Handloom sarongs into that country. They have recently informed this Government that the Ceylon Government have awarded quotas for import of sarongs for 1961 to the extent of 50 per cent of the imports for one year. The Government of India have also intimated that bilateral negotiations with the Ceylon Government are still under way.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, as far as import into Ceylon is concerned, they discriminate more against South Indian handloom sarongs. Will the Government at least press on the Government of India to see that something is done in future, not to discriminate between other textiles and handloom textiles?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: When we are negotiating with another country, it is not proper to say that they discriminate and all that. It is the sovereign right of a country to determine what goods they should import. It is a matter for negotiation, and negotiations are going on.

State Transport Department

* 255 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN (on behalf of Sri L. S. KARAYALAR): Will the Hon. the Miniser tor Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, and if so, when the post of Public Relations Officer in the Madras State Transport Department was sanctioned;

(b) when the appointment was made; and

(c) whether any disabled person was disqualified on the ground of his disability?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) Yes, Sir. On the 28th May 1960 the post of Public Relations Officer in the Madras State Transport Department was sanctioned.

(b) The appointment was ordered on the **19th September** 1960 and the officer took charge on 3rd October 1960.

(c) No, Sir.

State Transport buses

* 256 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of State Transport buses that ply daily in the City; and

(b) if so, the number by which the buses will be increased, and the date from which it will come into force?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. About 113 buses will be added to the fleet strength of Madras City during the year 1961–62, as and when the bodies are built.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : நெருசலையும் தாமதத்தையும் போக்க அதிகக் கூட்டம் சேரும் சமயங்களிலாவது பஸ்களில் இரண்டு கண்டக்டர்களை நியமிப்பது பற்றி அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : அதற்குப் பதிலாக ஸ்டாண்டு கண்டக்டர்கள் போட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். அந்த யோசனை இப்போது அரசாங்கத்திற்கில்லை.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the short route buses have been merged with the long route buses with effect from to-day?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir. We are now merging all short route shuttle services into the long route services so that the frequency may be increased.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Do the Government realise that people who have to board the buses *en route* would find it difficult to get buses if these short route buses are cancelled?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If any difficulties are experienced, we will put in additional buses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The questions relating to the Hon. the Minister for Revenue are postponed, because he is not here today.